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DISSERTATIONS,

ON THE

GRAND DISPUTE

BETWEEN

GREAT-BRITAIN

AND

AMERICA.

by Amor Patriæ — i.e. Thos Crowley.

DISSERTATIONS

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BRITISH MUSEUM

DISSERTATIONS, &c.

A RECEIPT *to Mediate the very dangerous Differences between the* MOTHER COUNTRY *and her numerous* COLONIES.

LET an Act of Parliament be paſſed to grant the conſtitutional honour of being REALLY REPRESENTED in Parliament, to ſuch Colonies, who by Petitioning ſigned by the Speakers of each Aſſembly on behalf of the Province, ſhall REQUEST ſuch Favour of Government, and let it be alſo enacted, that in one year after ſuch Act becomes communicated to each Aſſembly by the Governors thereof, that every ſuch Province ſhall be liable, after the firſt year, to be TAXED BY PARLIAMENT in common with the Britiſh ſubjects reſiding in England, but not APART, nor otherwiſe than in the ſame Act, Mode or Proportion, as other Britiſh ſubjects are alſo taxed.

This is recommended as a ſafe and expeditious Cure to be applied by our STATE PHYSICIANS,

Nov. 8, 1773. AMOR PATRIÆ.

THE very important controverſy between Great-Britain and her numerous American Colonies, reſpecting the MODE and MANNER whereby they are to raiſe, or to operate in raiſing REVENUES, for the purpoſe of contributing reaſonable proportionate ſhares of the mighty expence of their PROTECTION, by the neceſſary operations of the fleet of Great-Britain and other meaſures of good government, after many years diſpute, is now apparently drawing towards a *Criſis*.

It is much to be deſired for the good, peace, and ſafety of mutual Commerce, as well as the welfare of poſterity on both ſides, that the moſt ſalutary means may be at laſt happily adopted, which can conduce to the immortal honour of our preſent Monarch, and his Adminiſtration!

The two grand queſtions to be decided in Council, or in Parliament, are theſe,—"Whe-"ther each of about thirty Aſſemblies are to be "left to tax themſelves, judging of the propor-"tionate ſums each for themſelves, without "ſtipulation by the Britiſh Legiſlature?" (which they unwiſely contend for) or "Whe-"ther they are to co-operate, by Repreſenta-"tion in the Britiſh Parliament, in aſſeſſing "themſelves?"---The former would create endleſs and yearly difficulties and diſputes, con-

conſtantly endangering the peace and welfare, and perhaps ultimately center in the ruin of both countries.

On the other hand, ſay the Americans, "a "Repreſentation in the Britiſh Parliament is "unſafe to us, becauſe of the apparent danger "of being overpowered by numbers, and con- "ſequently liable to too partial and heavy tax- "ations." It is therefore much to be wiſhed, for the mutual proſperity of the whole on both ſides, that Government would graciouſly condeſcend to grant the Americans a ſalutary ſecure Barrier, in the Act granting Repreſentation, to effectually and for ever prevent them from being SEPARATELY taxed by Parliament, or otherwiſe, than in the ſame Act, in the ſame Mode, and in the ſame Proportion, wherein the Britiſh ſubjects reſiding in Britain are alſo taxed. This would remove their fears, and thus might the whole of the Britiſh and American Britiſh ſubjects be very honourably, very ſafely, and very wiſely repreſented, in one central Parliament at Weſtminſter, which would clearly operate to the great ſtrength and glory of the Britiſh Empire, and be attended with abundance of real, important, eſſential advantage to Trade and Commerce.

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The American Aſſemblies muſt nevertheleſs be continued to them, for all their ſeveral internal PARTICULAR LOCAL CONCERNS, each deputing from among themſelves certain Members to repreſent them in the Britiſh Parliament, where all general laws for the Navigation, protection, general defence, and public weal of the whole, ſhould be deliberated and decided. So may every part be doing good to and ſtrengthening one another, and the good old Motto verified—" *Amantium Iræ, amoris* " *redintegratio eſt.*"

Jan 29, 1774. AMOR PATRIÆ.

" *Wiſdom is better than Weapons of War, but one* " *Sinner deſtroyeth much Good.*" Eccleſ. ix, 18.

AT this very critical conjuncture, when an apparent danger of a civil War between Britiſh ſubjects of theſe, and Britiſh American Dominions, it may be of ſome uſe to look back to the unhappy inlet to the preſent dangerous diſpute, reſpecting the mode or manner of the Americans being liable by the Conſtitution to furniſh Supplies by Taxation, towards the vaſt expence of protection and defence, whereby they have been in the late two Wars effectually made ſecure from their Indian, French, and European enemies, in ſuch a manner as to demand their great gratitude to their Protectors and

and Preſervers; and which noble principle would probably have appeared conſpicuous to this day, had not the unexperienced and unconſtitutional Miniſtry in the year 1764, 1765, &c. unhappily fell on a mode of taxing them *ſeparately*, without their Aſſemblies co-operation or conſent. If at the time of the Stamp Act was paſſed, a conſtitutional right of repreſentation had been granted them, on condition of their, or any of their Aſſemblies, petitioning for the ſame, it would have been complied with, although not ſo cordially as if a tax in common with the Britiſh ſubjects reſiding in Britain had been laid; becauſe in the former caſe they would have been jealous of future heavier taxations apart, and perhaps to an extent more than they could well bear, and which they would be always liable to, by being greatly out-numbered in Parliament; ſo ſhould they have been taxed only, in common with ourſelves, or in the ſame mode, ſize, and proportion, and in the ſame Act by which the Britiſh Subject reſiding here is taxed alſo, *e. g.* If in lieu of the preſent abſurd, unequitable, diſproportionate Tax, called the Land Tax, it had been reduced to one ſhilling in the pound, to be given and granted not by Individuals, at their voluntary option, as in the reign of William and Mary, but by the Repreſentatives of the People in Parliament, and honeſtly and equitably

tably aſſeſſed in juſt proportions, and ſo extended thro' all England, &c. Ireland and America, ſo that every Subject, having an Eſtate of 20l. a year, to pay twenty ſhillings, whether in England, Ireland, or America, ſuch a regulation would have been attended with a very happy and peaceful *ſecurity*, not only to Trade and Commerce, but to the permanent ſtrength and welfare of theſe Britiſh, Iriſh, and Britiſh American Nations, and would have happily proved a barrier againſt that dangerous advantage which the European enemies of this Country may look out for, and expect to reap, from our diviſions: "*A houſe divided againſt itſelf cannot ſtand; and a kingdom divided againſt itſelf is brought to deſolation.* Matt. viii, 25. If in lieu of repealing the Stamp Act, a much wiſer Act had been paſſed to grant them the honour of repreſentation on proper Petition, with a municipal clauſe to prevent future ſeparate taxations, all would have been well then, and ſo have continued now, and ſo would the wiſe King's doctrine have been very happily verified, "*Wiſdom is better than Weapons of War.*"

Feb. 8, 1774. AMOR PATRIÆ.

I Find many who have peruſed my late Diſſertations on conſtitutional terms of reconciliation between Great-Britain and her North American

merican Colonies, ſeem to think it difficult to reduce to practice; I remind all ſuch to conſider the reign of Henry VIII, and Oliver Cromwell's protectorate, in the former, Calais in France, was repreſented in the Engliſh Parliament, and in the latter Ireland was alſo ſo repreſented, the latter then ſending *thirty Members*; the policy of thoſe Governments in granting ſuch honours, was apparently, in order to conſtitutionally draw ſupplies from them, towards Protection and Defence, well knowing it the moſt effectual, moſt ſafe, moſt honourable-as well as moſt profitable way of taxing them; they co-operating therein, and ſo making it an Act of their own, without which a Tax on them, even by Parliament would be *arbitrary*; inaſmuch that, whereas ſubjects are arbitrarily taxed by one *King* in deſpotic Kingdoms, they, the Americans would be under a multitude of arbitrary Tax-maſters in Company, amounting to much the ſame in effect, by taxing them ſeparately; therefore is the language of the Conſtitution of the Britiſh government, *No right of Repreſentation granted, no Taxation by Parliament.*

Gracechurch-ſtreet,
16, Feb. 1774, AMOR PATRIÆ.

P. S. The Author hath been well informed that the Government of the Maſſachuſet's Bay, is compoſed of upwards of 120 Townſhips,

who have each of them a conſtitutional right granted them, of ſending a Member or Members to the General Aſſembly at Boſton; but more than twenty of the moſt remote of them, decline ſending Repreſentatives, on account of the diſtance and expence (the allowance from the Towns to their Repreſentatives being 4s. per diem) nevertheleſs, as they have a right of repreſentation granted them, they pay Taxes in common with thoſe who ſend Repreſentatives. This is apprehended to be an excellent conſtitutional Specimen.

Idem, A. P.

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FINIS.